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GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos.

Part B for

SUBJECT.

Inoculation against Plague.

Indexed
N. Hussain

W D 88—GPB—50,000—24-7-18

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Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, General Department (Plague), No. 5778-5870-P., dated Bombay Castle, the 17th October 1898.

READ—

Memorandum from the Plague Commissioner, No. 2380, dated the 1st October 1898—

Submits the following letter No. 586, dated the 23rd September 1898, from Monsieur W. M. Haffkine, C.I.E., together with copy of one from the Collector of Ahmednagar, to which it is a reply :—

"With reference to the Acting Collector of Ahmednagar's letter No. 9516, dated 19th instant, forwarded with your No. 2299, dated Bombay, 21st idem, I have the honour to state that the following are the arrangements which I have introduced for the present and which, of course, are subject to any modifications you may suggest.

'Plague prophylactic, syringes, printed instructions and *sample copies* of inoculation forms, certificates and observation sheets are supplied from the "Plague Research Laboratory," "Khoshroo Lodge" Bungalow, Nesbit Lane, Mazagon, Bombay upon an indent forwarded, either through the Plague Commissioner, or the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay, or direct to the Laboratory. Inoculation forms and observation sheets are to be printed locally according to the supplied samples. An arrangement, however, might perhaps be made similar to that described for the supply of inoculation certificates in paragraph 2 of Government Circular No. 2178,* dated Bombay, 2nd September 1898.—In Bombay, the forms are supplied by the Health Department of the Municipality.'

* (Plague Commissioner Circular.)

"2. Within the Bombay Presidency proper no charges for the prophylactic are made, and syringes are supplied (on loan) and repairs executed without charge. The addressee is only requested to pay railway freight on receipt of the parcels and on returning the empty bottles and the syringes.

"3. Outside the Bombay Presidency as well as in the independent States within the Presidency a nominal charge for the prophylactic is made of 2 pice a dose, and syringes are sold at their cost-rate or as nearly that rate as possible. The sums received were, up to 29th August 1898, forwarded to the Accountant General, Bombay, direct; since the above date, upon a request from the Accountant General, they are deposited in the Bank of Bombay and the cash recovery receipts remitted to the Accountant General.

"A copy of the books† in which the record of all despatches, paid and unpaid, is kept is herewith forwarded.

† Returned to M. Haffkine.

"4. Demands from Government, Civil, Military and Medical Officers, from Municipalities and from officials in Native States are met with immediately; whereas private practitioners are requested to furnish a recommendation from the local Magistrate, or, in Bombay, from the Health Officer; after which, in regard to the supply of prophylactic syringes, etc., they are treated on the same lines as officers in Government employ. This admission of private practitioners, recommended by the authorities, to the same facilities as those afforded to Government officers has been found to be an important factor in removing opposition and popularising the treatment.

"5. With regard to paragraph 4 of the Acting Collector's letter, I concur with Surgeon-Major W. A. Corkery's view as to the facility with which the rules of the inoculation *technique* can be learned by Subordinate Medical Officers. The non-compliance with any of those rules may, however, cause accidentally regrettable results. It is, therefore, desirable that a selection of the most careful among the subordinates be made, and that they should be deputed first to work for a short time at least in a place where inoculations are being done under Commissioned Medical Officers.

"6. Moreover, I would venture to mention here that while it is fairly safe to trust a careful subordinate in charge of a local dispensary with performing inoculation in a place where a spontaneous demand to that effect has arisen, or where the medical subordinate has had himself the inspiration of talking on the subject to the local residents, and unconsciously *creating* a demand, it is desirable that where such a demand does not yet exist, the subordinates should not be commissioned to preach or popularise the idea, exception of course being made for particularly able and authoritative men, enjoying confidence and influence among the inhabitants. The reason of this evidently being that an awkward attempt at persuasion is liable to create opposition, resistance and, occasionally, unfounded apprehesion. Until inoculation becomes better known in the country, it is desirable to request the local Magistrate and Civil Surgeons to try to introduce inoculation, at first, into places under their *immediate* control and after having personally ascertained that the leaders of the community have been won to the idea. I feel, however, that these considerations are outside my jurisdiction, and beg to be excused only on the score of a certain experience which I happened to have gained in this special line of work."

5 L.S. for Mysore

and states as follows :—

"2. The Plague Commissioner has the honour to recommend that this letter be printed and circulated with a special caution to officers to weigh carefully the remarks in paragraphs 5 and 6 before permitting inoculation by subordinates not under immediate supervision.

"3. The Surgeon-General might be asked to issue similar caution to all Civil Surgeons.

"4. As regards the suggestion contained in paragraph 1 of M. Haffkine's letter, the Plague Commissioner considers that it would be more economical to have the forms and observation sheets printed locally, and has informed M. Haffkine accordingly."

RESOLUTION.—A copy of Monsieur Haffkine's letter, together with extract paragraphs 2—4 of the Plague Commissioner's memorandum, should be forwarded to the officers and Departments concerned for information and guidance.

2. A copy should also be forwarded to the Government of India and

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